

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF ECUADOR ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION BY THE
RIO GROUP ISSUED ON 22 JUNE 1995 CONCERNING THE DECISION
OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO RESUME NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the European Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to Ambassador Antonio de Icaza, President of the Conference on Disarmament, and, in its capacity as coordinator of the Troika of the Rio Group, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration made by the Group on 22 June 1995 concerning the decision of the French Government to resume nuclear tests.

The Permanent Mission requests the President of the Conference on Disarmament to arrange for the secretariat to distribute the Declaration to the delegations of member and observer States in the working languages of the Conference.

DECLARATION BY THE RIO GROUP CONCERNING THE DECISION
OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTS

Quito, 22 June 1995

Further to the decision of the French Government to resume nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll, the countries of the Rio Group express their deep concern at that decision and appeal to the Government to reconsider it and to cancel the said tests.

The decision was taken shortly after the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), in connection with the negotiation whereof an appeal was made to the Conference on Disarmament to complete the negotiations on an international treaty totally and completely banning nuclear tests.

The countries of the Rio Group reiterate their concern at the potential adverse effects of nuclear tests on the environment and human health, assets that we are obliged to preserve.

The Rio Group, as the Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, appeals to all nuclear-weapon States to suspend all nuclear testing through the medium of unilateral or agreed moratoriums pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.
